(d) whether the country is affected by the incidents happening in the neighbouring countries; and

(e) if so, whether any action would be initiated to streamline his Ministry to make them accountable to the nation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Government is alert to all important developments in India's neighbourhood and particularly to those which could affect national interest. The Government is responsive to the legitimate concerns, needs and problems of the people of Indian origin.

Pak-former Prime Minister's visit to India

2670. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Prime Minister of Pakistan has recently paid a visit to India and held discussions with various leaders including Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government hope any peaceful relations with Pakistan after her visit to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Former Pakistan Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto paid a private visit to India, from 25-29 November, 2001, on an invitation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). On 26th November she addressed a meeting organized by the CII.

Government extended all the usual courtesies due to a former Head of Government.

(c) and (d) India has always endeavored to build peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan. As in the past, this shall also continue to be our endeavor in the future.

Maoist attacks in Nepal

2671. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the recent activities of Maoist rebels in Nepal, the lives and properties of Indians there are in danger;